

SITUATION REPORT NO. 2

INCIDENT NO. 2000-112

DATE: November 2, 2000

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Tornadoes/Severe Weather – A series of tornadoes moved through Burleigh, Morton, Oliver and McLean Counties on November 1, causing injuries and property damages. Reports indicate that most of the damage is in the city of Bismarck. Meanwhile, a winter storm on November 1-2 impacted western and north central North Dakota, causing power outages, as well as road and school closures.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: A tour bus carrying 48 passengers rolled over the morning of November 2 near Bowman, N.D. Most of the injured have been taken to a Bowman Hospital for treatment.
3. DAMAGES: The National Weather Service (NWS) issued a winter weather advisory for snow and blowing snow in far western and north central North Dakota for November 1-2. Also a wind advisory was in effect for south central and eastern North Dakota today. A deep low-pressure system will bring winds of 25 to 45 mph. One to three inches of snow is expected in southwest North Dakota and three to five inches in the northwest and north central part of the state.

The Williams County Emergency Manager reported that heavy snow and high winds have downed power lines and caused some schools to close. There are no damage estimates at this time. However, many vehicles are in the ditch, as well as jackknifed semi-trailers.

The N.D. Department of Transportation and the N.D. Highway Patrol temporarily closed I-94 eastbound from the Montana line to Belfield and westbound from Dickinson to the Montana line, because of hazardous conditions. Effective at 2:30 MST both eastbound and westbound lanes on I-94 were reopened. There are reports that Williams County has one and a half feet of slush on the ground. All other highways in the western one fourth of the state have heavy snow accumulations and traffic speeds are reduced. Damage occurred to guardrails on Interstate 94 due to vehicle accidents. The N.D. Highway Patrol is assisting with vehicle accidents.

The Burleigh County Emergency Manager reports that more than 50 homes have received structural damage from yesterday's tornado activity. Three of the homes are uninhabitable.

The McKenzie County Emergency Manager reports that the county has received approximately six inches of heavy wet snow since 8:00 p.m. last night. No travel has been advised by the McKenzie County Sheriffs Department. Many county roads are blocked and numerous power lines are down. Visibility throughout the county is from zero to 200 feet.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: Local agencies responding to the emergency included: public works departments, law enforcement agencies, communications centers, emergency management offices, fire and rescue, ambulance services, medical facilities, elected officials and administrative offices.

STATE: State Radio Communications, N.D. Highway Patrol, N.D. Department of Transportation and North Dakota Emergency Management have been monitoring the situation.

FEDERAL: The National Weather Service issued detailed weather information and monitored conditions throughout western North Dakota.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: HAM radio operators provided assistance to Bismarck/Burleigh County emergency workers during tornadic activity on November 1. Drivers of four-wheel vehicles are helping stranded motorists

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT) and Williams County road crews are clearing major snow routes. Temperatures should not be a detrimental factor at this time. Williams County Emergency Management is monitoring radio communications to ensure they are operational.

Medical authorities are working to transport critically-injured tour bus passengers to other facilities as required. Weather conditions interfered with that effort. Fixed wing air transport resources from the private sector are assisting.

Reports from the emergency managers in Billings, Golden Valley and McKenzie counties indicate that schools have been closed.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No assistance has been requested at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No outside help on the scene was reported.
9. OTHER: Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency

Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director